Seismic forecast centres

2912. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to set up seismic forecast centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any centre would be located in Rajasthan; and

(d) in what manner it would be coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Sir, Government have no plans to set up seismic forecast centres in the country, as there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes with any reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, time and magnitude. However, India Meteorological Department operates the National Network of Scismological Observatories for monitoring earthquake activity in the country including Rajasthan.

Earthquake prone site of dam in Koyna

2913. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Koyna in Maharashtra where there is a large dam would be an earthquake prone site for the next 30 to 40 years;

(b) if so, whether the dam is likely to withstand the earthquakes; and

(c) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) As per seismic zoning map of India published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the Koyna Dam falls under zone IV. This zone is broadly associated with earthquakes of intensity up to VIII on the Modified Mercalli Scale. At present, there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world which can prediet the earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of time, space and magnitude. It is therefore not possible to forecast earthquake activity in Koyna-Warna region for the next 30—40 years.

(b) The Koyna Dam has been suitably strengthened after the occurrence of 1967 Koyna earthquake of Magnitude 6.3 on Ritcher scale to withstand future earthquakes.

(c) The area is continuously monitored and various scientific studies/investigations have been taken up to understand the earthquake mechanism in the region.

Production cost of steel

† 2914. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the production cost of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that his production cost is more than that in other steeL producing countries of the World; and

(d) if so, the countries in comparison to which the production cost of steel in India is higher?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The Indian steel industry consists of a whole range of production facilities—from primary steel making to rolling/downstream processing of finished products, which

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.